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Inexpensive Scanning Stereoscope

In office stereoscopic delineation of types, photo measurements, or dot counts on aerial photographs, nothing is more aggravating than to be hampered by the legs of a pocket stereoscope.

Freedom of hand movement beneath a stereoscope can be obtained by rigidly mounting a stereoscope to a bar from an upright at the proper focusing height. However, this method requires that the photos be moved beneath the stereoscope for complete stereoscopic coverage, which is rather unhandy.

Commercial scanning-type stereoscopes are excellent and eliminate both of these disadvantages. Most of them, however, are too expensive for the average person engaged in photo-interpretation.

A practical yet inexpensive scanner can readily be made by attaching a common magnifying stereoscope to a storm sash friction-type adjuster (fig. 1).

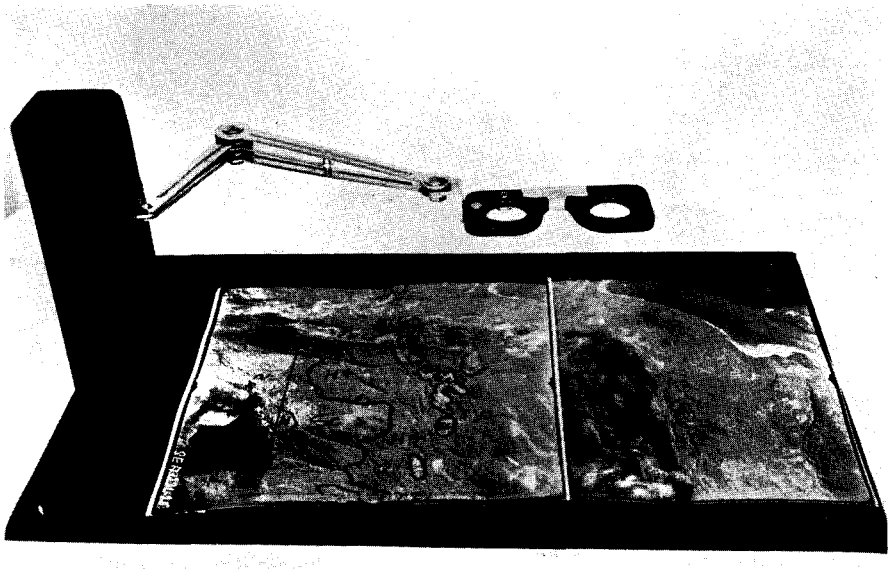

Figure 1.--Scanning stereoscope

The friction disks at the three hinge points eliminate wobble but allow free roving of the stereoscope in a horizontal plane to any desired stereoscopic position over the aerial photographs. Smoother movement of the arms is accomplished by lubricating each joint and adjusting the lock nuts. A hacksaw is used to notch the end normally fastened to the sash before bolting to the stereoscope. The stereoscope pictured has the standard 2X lenses mounted with an interpupillary distance of 63 mm in an eyepiece made of 1/4" hardboard.

In the model shown the adapter is screw-fastened to a short length of 2" x 2". The 2" x 2", in turn, is attached with screws to the left edge of the plywood base on which the photographs are placed. This viewing surface is tilted towards the photo-interpreter by raising the back edge to the desired height with legs or a wooden strip.

Certainly a more refined unit can be made by variations of the above. However, the point is that a stereoscope can be successfully adapted for scanning for about $1.00.

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